

D-778
Isham Eaton House
Hurlock vicinity
Private
c. 1840

The Isham Eaton house is the oldest structure to survive in this former mill community associated with Lower Hunting Creek in northern Dorchester County. The story-and-a-half hall/parlor plan frame dwelling is distinguished by its original room arrangement and steeply pitched gable roofed profile as well as exterior common bond brick chimney stacks on each end. The two-room interior is finished with modest second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork, which includes a board partition, late Federal style six-panel door and an enclosed winder staircase in the southeast corner of the hall. The fireplace on the south wall retains a period mantel.

The land record research for this small parcel on Beulah Road identifies the property as "Nevitt's Addition," a one-acre lot of which was sold to Isham Eaton by James Rowins on 24 April 1840. The lot transferred at the time for \$25, thereby indicating that it was unimproved at the time. Eight years later the same one-acre Nevitt's Addition lot was sold by Isham and Margaret Ellen Eaton to Algernon Thomas for \$400, a price that indicates the improved nature of the property. During the 1840s Isham Eaton and Algernon Thomas owned jointly the milling enterprise on Lower Hunting Creek, which consisted of tracts, "Hampton," "Mills Security," and "Puzzle." The partners had acquired the mill location from John Rowins, of Dorchester and Jacob Leverton of Caroline County.

During the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century the house was occupied by Deborah Carroll, who is identified at the site on the Williamsburg district map under the

name "Mrs. Carroll." By the last decades of the nineteenth century, the village name was changed from Lower Hunting Creek to Beulah. After the turn of the twentieth century there were several short term owners until it was acquired by Guy Trice in 1932 and rented out to tenants.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-778

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Isham Eaton House

other _____

2. Location

street and number Beulah Road _____ not for publication

city, town Hurlock _____ x _____ vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James Glenna

street and number 3 Fairfield Circle telephone 410-

city, town Fredericksburg state MD zip code 22407

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 318 folio 123

city, town Cambridge tax map 5 tax parcel 52 tax ID number 15-010541

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
____ district	____ public	____ agriculture	Contributing
x building(s)	x private	____ landscape	Noncontributing
____ structure	____ both	____ commerce/trade	<u>1</u>
____ site		____ recreation/culture	____ buildings
____ object		____ defense	____ sites
		____ domestic	____ structures
		____ education	____ objects
		____ funerary	<u>1</u>
		____ government	____ Total
		____ health care	
		____ industry	
		____ work in progress	
		____ unknown	
		x vacant/not in use	
		____ other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory _____

7. Description

Inventory No. D-778

Condition

☐ excellent ☒ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Isham Eaton house stands on the east side of Beulah Road approximately 1.75 miles north of Waddell's Corner intersection of MD 331 and MD 16 northwest of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half hall/parlor plan frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. Built around 1840, the story-and-a-half, three-bay house is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with tar paper. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story, one-room plan service wing.

COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION

The Isham Eaton house, built around 1840, is a story-and-a-half, hall/parlor plan frame house standing on the east side of Beulah Road north of Waddell's Corner intersection of MD Route 331 and MD Route 16, northwest of Hurlock, Dorchester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half, three-bay frame house has a partially glazed front door sheltered by a single bay porch. The bays to each side are defined by two-over-two sash windows. The base of the steeply pitched gable roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Fixed in the center of the west roof slope is a shed roofed dormer fitted with a paired unit of two-over-two sash windows. The roof of the dormer has collapsed.

The south gable end is dominated by an exterior seven-course common bond brick stack featuring corbelled shoulders and a single flue stack. The stack is flanked by four-pane attic windows, and the edge of the roof is finished flush with a molded bargeboard. The north gable end is similarly finished with an exterior brick stack and four-pane attic windows.

Attached to the back of the hall/parlor plan main block is a single-story one-room plan kitchen extended on its south side with a shed roofed porch. The kitchen roof is finished with boxed cornices and a flush gable end. A single flue brick stack rises through the gable end.

The interior has suffered from water penetration, but the two-room plan main block retains second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork. A thin board partition separates the hall, the larger of the two spaces, from the parlor. A late Federal style six-panel door remains in place in the center of the wall. The fireplace in the south room is framed by a period mantel with a molded firebox surround and molded mantel shelf. Rising in the southeast corner is a boxed winder staircase with a series of steps exposed within the room. While the ceiling is covered with beaded tongue-and-groove boards, the joists were originally exposed and finished with whitewash.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The Isham Eaton house is the oldest structure to survive in this former mill community associated with Lower Hunting Creek in northern Dorchester County, Maryland. The story-and-half hall/parlor frame dwelling is distinguished by its original plan and profile as well as exterior common bond brick stacks that define each gable end. The two-room interior is finished with modest second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork, which includes a board partition, six-panel late Federal style interior door and an enclosed winder staircase in the southeast corner. The fireplace on the south wall retains a period mantel as well.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The land record research for this small parcel on Beulah Road identifies the property as "Nevitt's Addition," a one-acre lot of which was sold to Isham Eaton by James Rowins on 24 April 1840.¹ The lot transferred at the time for \$25 indicating that it was unimproved; eight years later the same one-acre Nevitt's Additoin lot was sold by Isham and Margaret Ellen Eaton to Algernon Thomas for \$400,² thereby indicating the construction of this story-and-a-half hall/parlor house. During the 1840s Isham Eaton and Algernon Thomas owned jointly the mill property on Lower Hunting Creek, which consisted of tracts, "Hampton," "Mills Security," and "Puzzle,"³ which the partners had acquired from John Rowins, of Dorchester and Jacob Levertton of Caroline County. During the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century the house was occupied by Deborah Carroll, who is identified at the site on the Williamsburg district map under the name, "Mrs. Carroll."⁴ During the last decades of the nineteenth

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 18/37, 24 April 1840, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 4/155, 21 March 1848, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 2/221, 4 January 1845., Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ John L. Graham, Ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 82.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Isham Eaton House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

century the village name was changed from Lower Hunting Creek to Beulah.⁵ After the turn of the twentieth century there were several short term owners until it was acquired by Guy Trice in 1932 and rented out to tenants.⁶

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 8/716, 25 August 1886, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 28/273, 12 January 1932, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Name Isham Eaton House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Isham Eaton House
Beulah Road
Hurlock vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 5, Parcel 52

MLB 318/123

Glenna James, Personal Representative of the Estate of
William P. Martin

to

9.1.1994

Glenna James

PLC 201/721

Otis M. Trice, Norman L. Trice and Evelyn V. Trice

to

9.1.1977

William P. Martin and Zelma Martin

PLC 122/147

Lillian M. Trice and others

to

12.28.1960

Otis M. Trice, Norman L. Trice, Evelyn V. Trice, and Paul C. Trice

Parcel No. 9

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Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

JFD 28/273

V. Calvin Trice, Assignee

to

1.12.1932

M. Guy Trice

WHM 9/393

Robert A. Walker

to

11.3.1920

Fred J. Henry

\$500 "Nevitt's Addition" or "Bit By Chance"

WLR 8/531

Eugene Coulbourn

to

2.20.1915

Robert A. Walker

WLR 4/323

Elijah K. Baker and Amanda F. Baker

to

2.19.1912

Eugene Coulbourn

\$300

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Historic Properties Form

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Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

CL 34/640

Peter St. James and Louisa St. James

to

2.19.1909

Elijah K. Baker

CL 34/515

W. H. Camper

to

11.9.1908

Peter St. James

\$150.00 79 square perches

CL 8/716

William A. Henry and Mary E. Henry

to

8.25.1886

William H. Camper

\$300.00situated in the village of Beulah (formerly Lower Hunting Creek)
...79 square perches

CL 4/573

Deborah Carroll

to

12.20.1882

William Henry

\$300.001 acre

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Name Isham Eaton House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

FJH 11/203

Deborah Thomas, deceased

to

3.4.1876

Deborah Carroll

\$25....near Lower Hunting Creek Mill

WJ 4/155

Isham Eaton and wife Margaret Ellen

to

3.21.1848

Algernon Thomas

\$400...all that lot or parcel of land lying and being in Dorchester County...and a little above the Lower Hunting Creek Mills, the same being a part of the tract of land called Nevitt's Addition, containing one acre

ER 18/37

John Rowins

to

4.24.1840

Isham Eaton

\$25.00 Nevitt's Addition 1 acre

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Recods, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1 acre
Quadrangle name Preston, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

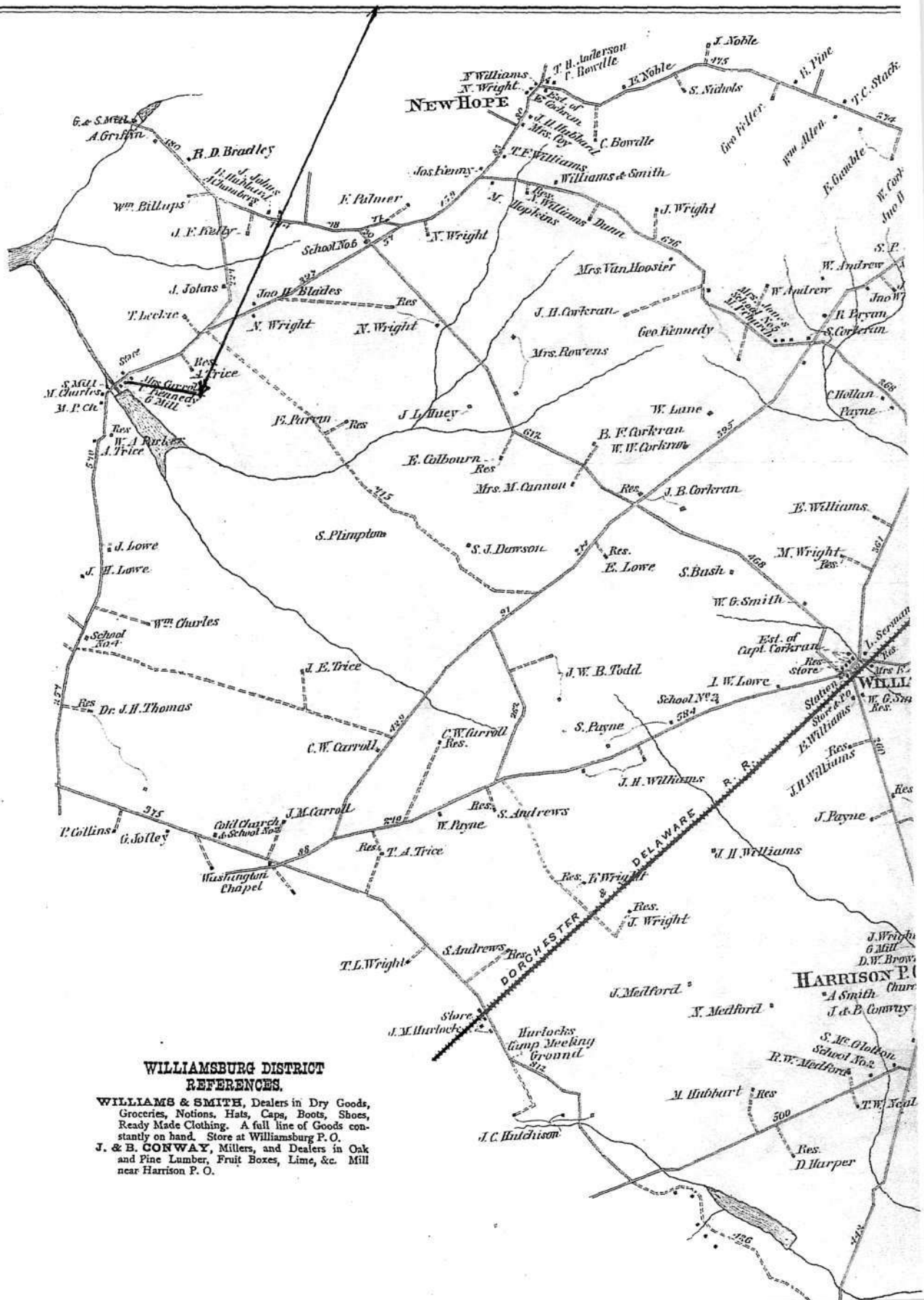
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	12.03.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

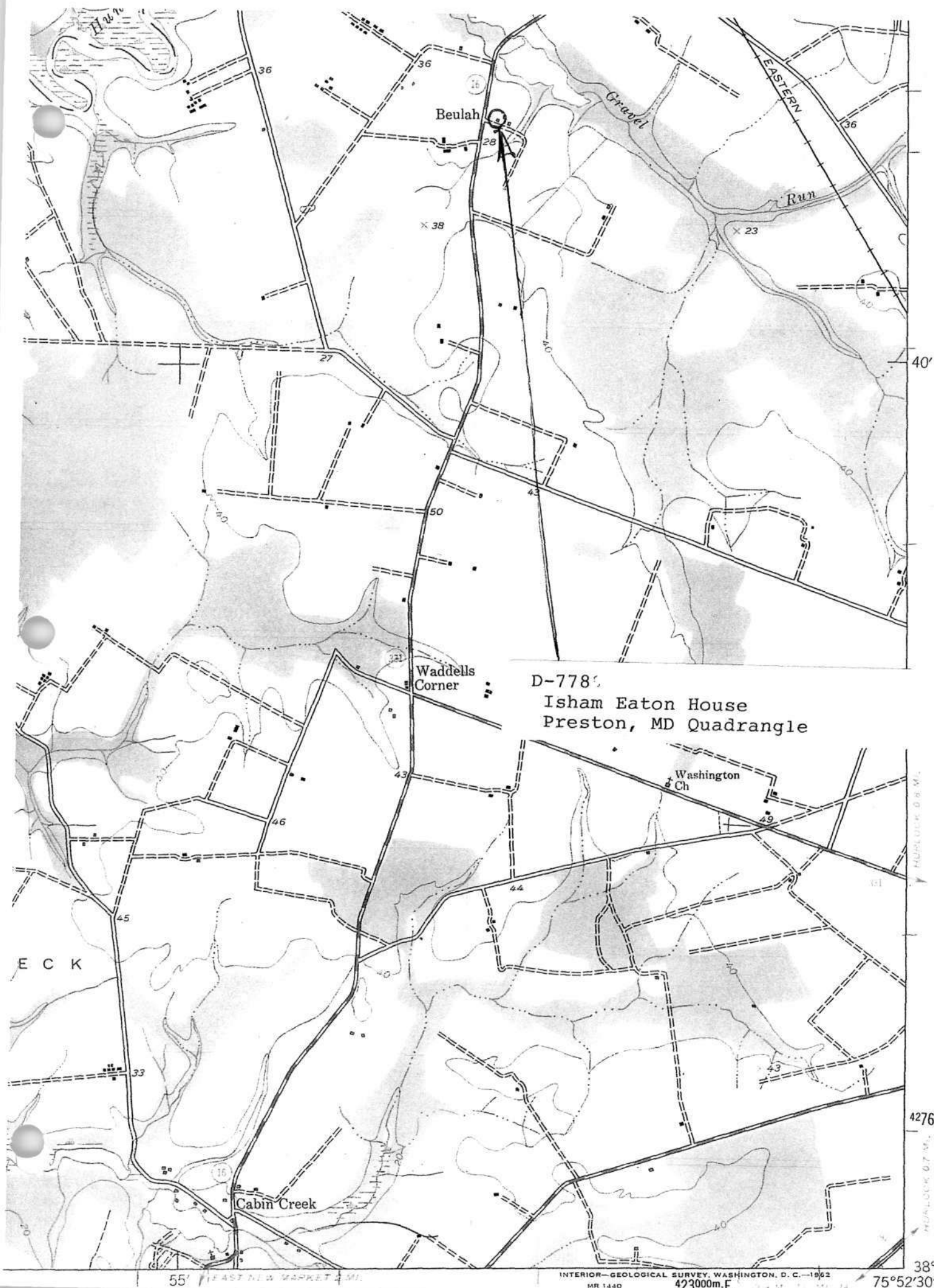
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

D-778
 Isham Eaton House 1877
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson





D-778
Isham Eaton House
Preston, MD Quadrangle



D-778

Isaac Eaton House

Benlitt, Dorchester Co., MD.

Southwest Elevation

11/08, Paul Tonsat, Photographer

W.H. / MD Historical Trust



D-778

ISHAM EATON House

BELMONT, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

Southeast elevation

11/09 Paul Townsend, Pittsburgh

Nat'l. Md. Historical Trust

2/3



D-778

ISHAM EATON, House

BENLINT, DORCHESTER Co. MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

11/28. PAUL TOURNET, PHOTOGRAPHER